



## ***Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter***

**Volume 5, Issue #13**

**Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC**

**19 August 2010**

### **Edisto Fall Field Day – It's 2 weeks away!!!**

This is a reminder that 2 September marks the date for the annual field day at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC. There will be various tours at the field day, including our row-crop tour. Please put the date on your calendar, and plan to attend. Below are topics to be presented on our row-crop tour:

1. Update on site-specific nematode management in cotton – Will Henderson, Ahmad Khalilian and John Mueller
2. Choosing optimum planting dates and seeding rates for soybean and how nitrogen rich strips and GreenSeeker technology can help to increase corn profitability – Pawel Wiatrak
3. Management of important insects in cotton and soybeans – Jeremy Greene
4. Management of insects in corn – Francis Reay-Jones
5. Soybean breeding research – Emerson Shipe
6. South Carolina official variety trials (OVT) & update on the foundation seed program – Chris Ray
7. Cotton germplasm development for the southeastern US - Todd Campbell
8. Clemson automatic rainout shelter/drought simulator – Hamid Farahani
9. Weed management in cotton and soybean – Mike Marshall

### **Pest Alert!!!**

See the section below under soybean called 'Pest Alert: Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid' for updated information about an invasive species spreading in our state.

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

There is a toll-free hotline for quick updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

There were more reports about soybean loopers as a problem in soybeans.

### **News from Below the Lakes**

There are more reports of fall armyworms in cotton and armyworms (yellowstriped, etc.) in soybeans. I had a report today from just around the state line into Georgia about numerous bollworm moths in late cotton.

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## Cotton Situation

As of 16 August 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 70% of the crop has set bolls, behind 78% for last year and 78% for the 5-yr average. About 2% of bolls have opened, ahead of where we were last year at 0%, but equal to the 5-yr average of 2%. Conditions were described as 8% excellent, 54% good, 28% fair, 9% poor, and 1% very poor for the crop. The overall moisture levels in the state were described as 9% very short, 29% short, 56% adequate, and 6% surplus.

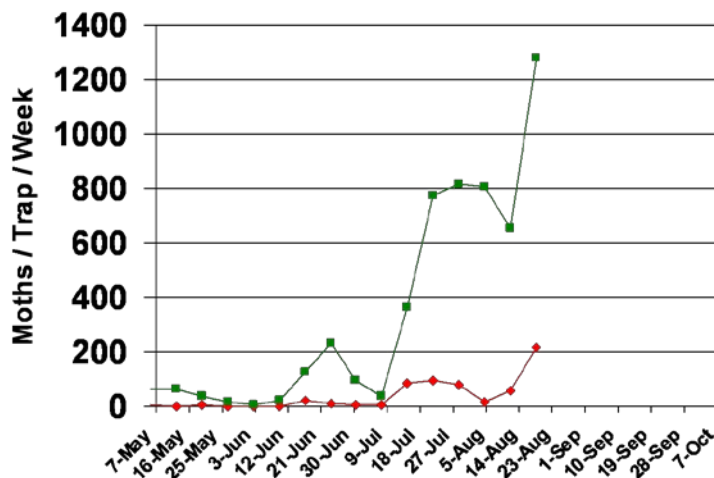
## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



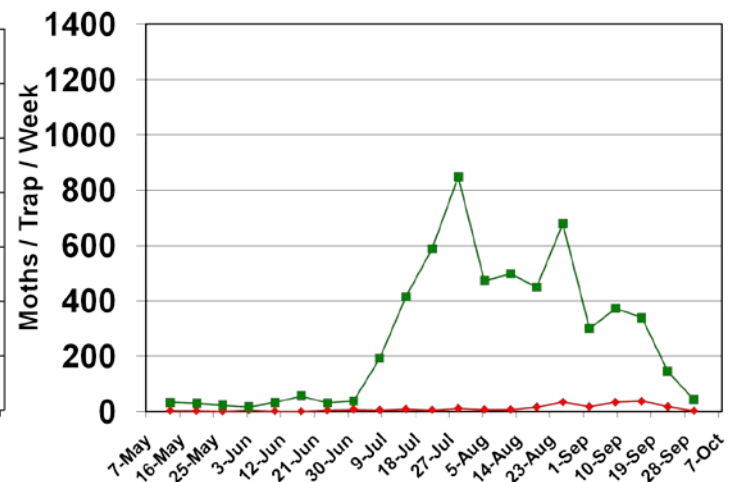
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Notice that I had to change the scales this week because **our trap numbers almost doubled from last week** – we caught almost 13,000 BW moths! Notice also that our tobacco budworm captures went up again. Our egg counts have picked up again, especially in some late-planted cotton that is blooming extensively now. We are also seeing many TBW moths in the field – this is not an issue for our predominant Bt cotton acreage in SC, but it is important for all of our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. See the section in my newsletter from last week about how to tell these two important species apart. I have never seen lep pressure this high since returning to SC.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009**



## Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/ENTOM/IC97.pdf>

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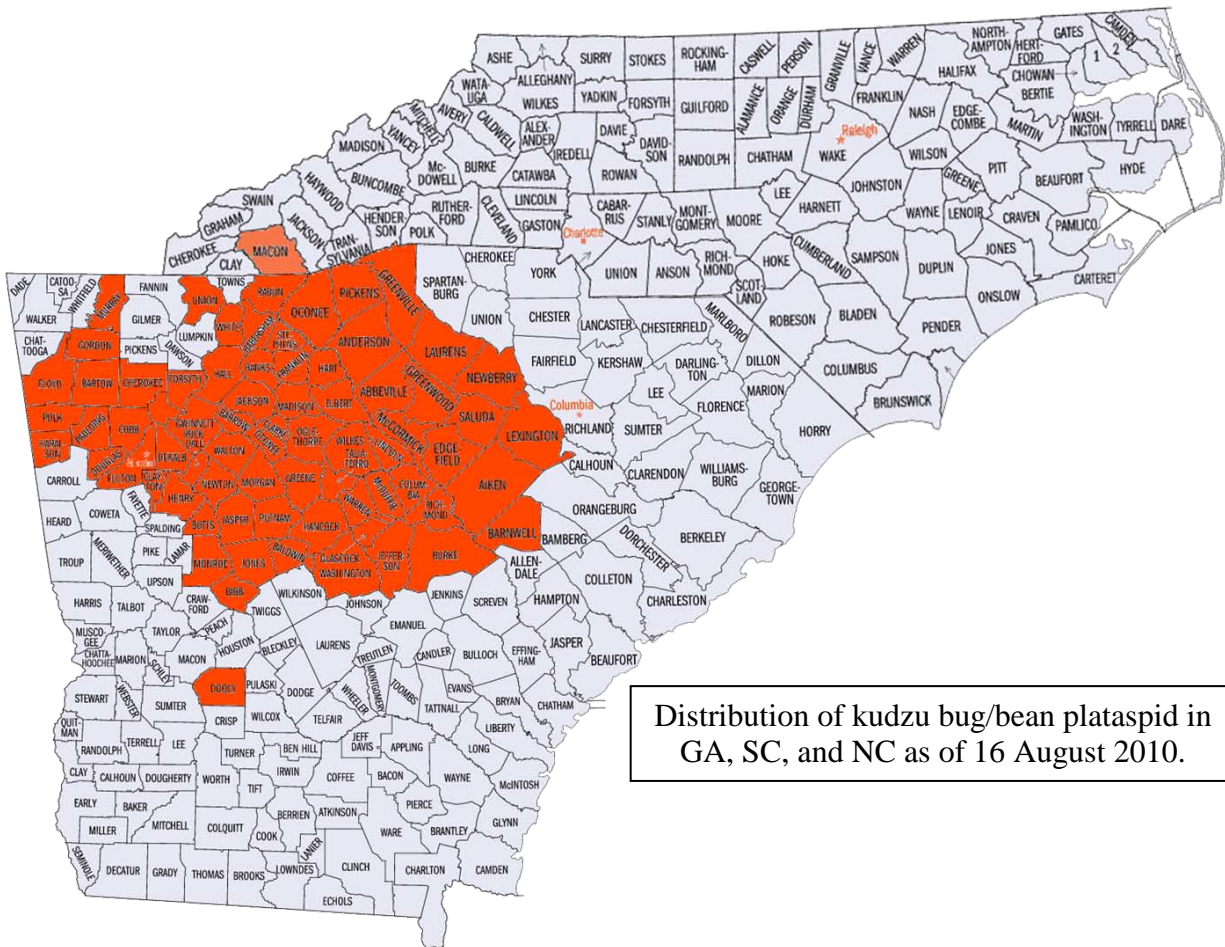


## Soybean Situation

As of 16 August 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 88% of soybeans have bloomed, about equal to last year's 85% and the 5-yr average of 84%. About 52% of the crop has set pods, about equal with where we were last year at 55% and the 5-yr average of 48%. Conditions were described as 4% excellent, 45% good, 31% fair, 18% poor, and 2% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Pest Alert: Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid!

The bean plataspid/kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in GA, SC, and NC. We have it in the following counties (14) in SC: Anderson, Oconee, Abbeville, Barnwell, Aiken, Edgefield, McCormick, Greenwood, Laurens, Saluda, Newberry, Lexington, Greenville, and Pickens Counties. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** The best place to look for these pests is in kudzu. If you want to help document new county finds of this pest, digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. Please email/send that information to me.



Distribution of kudzu bug/bean plataspid in GA, SC, and NC as of 16 August 2010.

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Egg mass of kudzu bug/bean plataspid on soybean leaf (below) and immatures of bean plataspid on kudzu stem (right).



Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids and US dime on soybean leaf (below left) and close-up of kudzu bug/bean plataspid adult (below right) found on soybean in Barnwell County, SC (2010).



Here are the same pictures as in previous newsletters, but these photos should help those who have not identified the kudzu bug/bean plataspid. We will be conducting research to explore the potential economic impact of this invasive species – we learn more every day. Updates will be provided weekly in the newsletter.

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### **Soybean Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/AGRO/SL1.pdf>

### **Pest Management Handbook - 2010**

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2010 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/>

For past newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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